



**Opposition Statement HB401/SB438**  
**Public Schools – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policies and Reports**  
**Hearing 1/27/21 Ways and Means**  
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Dear Delegate Guyton,

On behalf of our members in Baltimore County and across the state, we respectfully oppose **HB401 entitled *Public Schools – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Policies and Reports***. We applaud any effort to help create an educational environment that supports pregnant students in their decisions to parent their children or utilize adoption services. **However this bill, as written, could commit public funding and policy to expand the reach of the abortion industry to school-aged children during the school day without the knowledge or consent of parents, as Planned Parenthood already has done in California.** <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/planned-parenthood-plans-to-infiltrate-high-schools>

**Transparency in Legislative Language and Intent**

As a matter of public policy, legislation should be drafted using the common meaning of the language that most accurately reflects the intent of the bill’s sponsor. The terms “pregnancy” and “pre-natal” are commonly understood to mean the term of biological gestation of a woman carrying a child from fertilization to birth, and the care associated with delivering a healthy child. However, as written, this bill may be applied to give legal application to abortion, or the ***termination of pregnancy***, frustrating the stated purpose of the bill. Schools already are referring students to abortion providers. This bill would authorize school systems to develop and implement policies that could commit public resources towards expanding abortion to minor school-aged children, including providing contracts to abortion providers through school-based health clinics, the remote prescription of chemical abortion pills, and transportation to abortion clinics for obtaining abortions.

**Parental Notice and Consent Provides Better Outcomes for Minor Children**

Maryland law recognizes the natural and legal right of parents to provide consent to their minor child’s medical care. But the influence of the abortion industry in developing school policy and curriculum has degraded the role of parents in their children’s healthcare decisions. The state has aggravated the situation by failing to require sex education curriculum to be medically accurate or age appropriate. Because of the influence of the abortion lobby, parents no longer have the opportunity to “opt in” to sex education for our children, but may only “opt out” if we are made aware at all. As a result of the state authorizing and subsidizing the abortion industry to have direct access to our schoolchildren, the number of abortions has INCREASED not decreased. Furthermore, the lack of parental notification puts children at greater risk of undiagnosed and untreated abortion complications and enables abortion providers to evade liability for failure to report child abuse, sexual assault and sex trafficking.

**No Public Subsidies to Billion Dollar Abortion Industry**

A recent Marist poll showed that 83% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children, and that 54% oppose the use of tax dollars to pay for abortion. Taxpayers should not be forced to fund elective abortions, which make up the vast majority of abortions performed in Maryland. *Public funds instead should be prioritized to fund legitimate health and family planning services which have the objective of saving the lives of both mother and children.*

**For these reasons, we respectfully request that you preserve the good purposes of the bill by amending it to expressly exclude its application to abortion and related services or otherwise issue an unfavorable report. Please protect Maryland’s school children from abuse and exploitation.**